

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended. No new matter is added. The amendment is supported by the original specification, including the original drawings and claims. For example, the amendment is supported at least by page 6, line 21 to page 7, line 10 and page 12, lines 15-20.

I. Objection to Claim 9

Claim 9 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. The objection to claim 9 is traversed, because claim 9 is amended.

II. Claims 1-7 Patentable under §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended to be definite by indicating that the interface circuit and non-volatile memory are coupled to the circuit, that the data transfer control device has a bus bridge function between the first bus and the second bus, and by other amendments. Claims 2-7 are definite by virtue of their dependency on amended claim 1.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the second bus being connectable to a second device." The Examiner is unsure how the circuit can begin packet transfer without a connection between the second bus and the second device. (Office Action, page 4, first paragraph.) In fact, Applicants' Specification addresses this very problem. (See Applicants' Specification, Figure 5B, paragraphs [0059]-[0061]). There are different ways of detecting whether or not the second device is connected to the second bus. (See Applicants' Specification, Figure 6, paragraph [0090].) A person skilled in the art would easily detect that the second bus has no connection to any device based on the result of an access to the register of the second device or by providing a monitor circuit, etc. as described in Applicants' Specification.

III. Claims 1-7 Patentable over Bartholomew under §102

Claims 1-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,978,591 to Bartholomew et al. ("Bartholomew").

Bartholomew fails to disclose each and every element of claims 1-7 and 9 as arranged in the claims.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the data transfer control device having a bus bridge function between the first bus conforming to a first interface standard and the second bus conforming to a second interface standard." On the other hand, Bartholomew discloses an invention relating to a personal information device card having a PCMCIA port adapted to be coupled to a personal computer. (See Bartholomew, abstract.) Therefore, Bartholomew completely differs from the present invention as to this point.

In Bartholomew, installation from the dual port memory to the work memory may not start until the personal information device card is removed from the personal computer (see Bartholomew, col. 7, lines 26-48), as the Examiner points out in the Office Action. (See Office Action, page 8.)

However, in Bartholomew, no connection is detected for the first bus instead of the second bus. In Bartholomew, information is downloaded through and no connection is made for the first bus which connects the personal computer and the personal information device card. (See Bartholomew, Figure 3.)

In the present invention, information is downloaded through the first bus, and no connection is detected for the second bus. Therefore, the present invention completely differs from Bartholomew as to this point.

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner stated that the first bus is provided between the personal computer and the docking station, and the second bus is provided between the docking station and the persona information device card. However, this finding

is obviously contradictory. This is because the docking station does not include a non-volatile memory or a rewriter for the non-volatile memory.

In Bartholomew, no connection is detected in order to prevent information from being overwritten by the host computer, as described in col. 8, lines 28-37. Specifically, when installation or reprogramming is performed in a state in which the personal information device card and the host computer are connected, reprogramming data and the like may be destroyed.

On the other hand, no connection is detected in the present invention for the reasons specific to the data transfer control device having a bus bridge function. Regarding this point, please refer to Applicants' Specification, paragraphs [0052]-[0061].

Specifically, in the data transfer control device having a bus bridge function as claimed, the recognition target of the first device connected to the first bus is the second device connected to the second bus instead of the data transfer control device.

Therefore, in order to download information to the non-volatile memory of the data transfer control device, it is necessary to transfer data in accordance with the first bus in a state in which the second device is connected to the second bus. This complicates and lengthens the manufacturing process of the data transfer control device.

In claimed invention, when the second bus is detected to have no connection to any device, the rewriter activation section automatically activates the rewriter, and the activated rewriter downloads information to the non-volatile memory. Therefore, information can be downloaded to the non-volatile memory even if the second device is not connected to the second bus, whereby the manufacturing process of the data transfer control device can be simplified and shortened.

Since Bartholomew does not deal with the concept of the bridge function between the first and second buses, the problems to be solved by the claimed invention do not occur.


Therefore, a person skilled in the art could not arrive at the configuration of the present invention in view of Bartholomew.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Bartholomew under §102. For the same reasons, claim 9 is also patentable over Bartholomew. In addition, claims 2-7 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1, while adding or further defining elements. Therefore, claims 1-7 are patentable over Bartholomew under §102.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

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Date: June 13, 2007

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